



# California Postsecondary Education Commission

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## State Higher Education Commission to Present Findings on Key Higher Education Accountability Measures

SACRAMENTO — December 7, 2006 — At its December 12-13, 2006 meeting, the California Postsecondary Education Commission will present three reports measuring student success in graduating in a timely fashion from California's public universities. The reports compare outcomes at public universities with similar institutions on a nationwide basis, identify California's strengths as well as areas needing improvement, and highlight efforts at campuses to improve student success.

California spends over \$14 billion annually on higher education, far more than any other state, yet it is one of the few remaining states without mandated statewide accountability performance indicators for higher education. The Commission is leading an effort to establish an accountability framework for California with clearly defined goals measured against agreed-upon indicators of performance.

At next week's meeting, the Commission will discuss the results of three of the performance measures relating to the goal of student success including time-to-degree, first year student persistence rates, and four-year degrees conferred for transfer students. Commission Chair Howard Welinsky said, "These measures pose the essential question, 'Are students progressing through California's public colleges and universities in an efficient manner?' These data are instrumental in informing our higher education institutions and policy makers about whether or not public funds are being invested effectively, and if not, where improvements could be made."

Executive Director Murray J. Haberman noted, "This analysis was made possible by student-specific data provided by the public higher education segments. These data allow for longitudinal tracking of students to identify trends in student enrollment, including inter-segmental transfer, drop-out patterns, and "stop-out" patterns."

The reports conclude that California's public universities compare well with their counterparts across the country in time-to-degree and persistence rates. For community college transfer students who transferred in the fall of 2000, data show that more than half the students who transferred to the California State University (CSU) attained their bachelor's degrees within three years at the four-year system as did 78% of those students who transferred to the University of

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California (UC). CSU's completion rates were impacted by the number of students enrolling part-time and those who appeared to have changed their academic goals while enrolled at CSU.

A copy of the reports can be found on the Commission's website at:

California Higher Education Accountability: Goal - Student Success Measure: Time-to-Degree --  
[http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0612/Tab\\_03.PDF](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0612/Tab_03.PDF)

California Higher Education Accountability: Goal - Student Success Measure: First-Year --  
Persistence Rates [http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0612/Tab\\_04.PDF](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0612/Tab_04.PDF)

California Higher Education Accountability: Goal - Student Success Measure: Four-Year  
Degrees Conferred on Community College Transfer Students --  
[http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0612/Tab\\_05.pdf](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0612/Tab_05.pdf)

*The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.*